

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed prior to an initial Office action on the merits. The preliminary amendment adds Claims 21-29, which are directed to an inventive concept disclosed in the originally-filed application. Support for the additional claims can be found in at least paragraph [0018], and in FIGS. 1 and 3, of the originally-filed application. Hence, no new matter is added. Moreover, since this amendment is being filed within four months of the filing date of the above-identified application, it is submitted that it will not unduly interfere with the preparation of a first Office action.

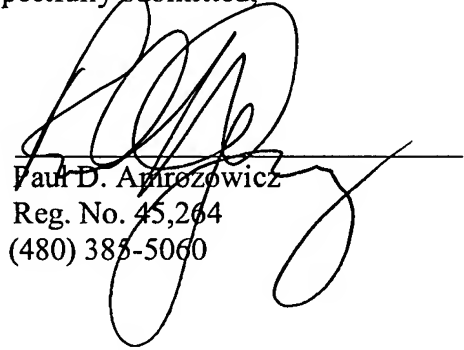
In view of the foregoing, entry of the preliminary amendment is believed proper pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.115(b)(1), and its entry is respectfully requested.

If for some reason Applicants have not paid a sufficient fee with this submittal, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 6, 2004

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